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Two New Directors Appointed To KDOL Leadership Team

Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) Acting Secretary, Delía García, has selected Laurel Klein Searles to serve as Director of Unemployment Insurance and Julie Menghini as Director of Communications/Legislative Liaison for the agency. The appointments are effective immediately.

Searles is originally from Minneapolis, Kansas, and graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is also a Washburn University Law School graduate and worked as a staff attorney with the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. Searles joined KDOL in 2012 as an Appeals Referee and was promoted to Chief of Appeals three years later. In October 2018, she joined the Social Security Administration office in Topeka as an Attorney Advisor.

Menghini is a lifelong Kansan with a dedication to service. She was a member of the Kansas House of Representatives for eight years and served two years as Minority Whip. Menghini is a Pittsburg State University graduate and holds the Senior Certified Professional Certification from the Society of Human Resource Management. Most recently she spent more than seven years as the Human Resources Director for Pittsburg Community Schools, USD 250.

Acting Secretary García, believes they will be key members to the KDOL Leadership team. “By selecting Julie as the Communications Director and Legislative Liaison, we can draw upon her legislative and constituent services experiences and background in both human resources and communications to better serve Kansas citizens and businesses,” she said. “Laurel’s previous experience at KDOL allows her to hit the ground running as our new Unemployment Insurance Director. I am pleased to welcome her back to KDOL.”

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The Kansas Department of Labor assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.

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